

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Mukul Chawla, Chickayya G. Naik and Jason A. Marinshaw  
Assignee: Cisco Technology, Inc.  
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING CASCADED  
LOOKUPS TO FORWARD PACKETS  
Application No.: 10/780,022 Filing Date: February 17, 2004  
Examiner: Gerald A. Smarth Group Art Unit: 2446  
Docket No.: CIS0205US Confirmation No.: 9596

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Austin, Texas  
November 30, 2011

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENT ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Dear Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, as set forth in the Notice of Allowance dated September 1, 2011. In this statement, the Examiner provided reasons for allowance of claims 1-55, and listed elements purportedly taught and not taught by the cited references. See Notice of Allowance, pp. 2-3.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the allowance of claims 1-55. However, Applicants respectfully note that numerous other points of distinction exist between the cited references and the claims, in addition to those stated in the foregoing passages and elsewhere during the prosecution of the instant application.

Thus, Applicants feel compelled to submit, respectfully, the following additional observations. Independent claim 1, which is representative of the remaining independent claims, reads as follows:

1. A method, comprising:  
accessing a first lookup table based on a first portion of a packet header, wherein  
the first portion of the packet header comprises at least a first part of a multicast  
group destination address,  
the first lookup table identifies a subset of a second lookup table, and  
the subset of the second lookup table comprises at least one entry; and  
accessing the subset of the second lookup table based on a second portion of the packet  
header, wherein  
the second portion of the packet header comprises at least a second part of the  
multicast group destination address, and  
the accessing the first lookup table and the accessing the subset of the second  
lookup table are performed by a network device.

Moreover, even while accepting the allowed claims in their present form, Applicants do not (and need not) agree with the characterizations espoused by the Examiner, whether in the Notice of Allowance, or at other points during the prosecution of these claims (and indeed, during the prosecution of the claims in the parent case of the present application). In so stating, then, Applicants maintain their position with regard to the cited references, as presented during the prosecution of this application.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance fails to accurately and completely characterize the language of the claims in at least with respect to the foregoing. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric A. Stephenson", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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